



SEEK ARSONIST . . . Detective Captain Ernie Ashton and Sergeant Percy Bennett discover ashes in cupboard of the First Lutheran Church. Arsonist's attempt here to set church fire failed, but another attempt caused damage estimated at \$5000. (Herald photo).

\$5000 Church Fire Work of Arsonist

Meager clues, charred and water logged, were still being run down by Torrance detectives this week in an attempt to nab the arsonist who set fire to the parish hall of the First Lutheran Church last Wednesday night with resulting damage estimated at \$5000. Detectives Captain Ernie Ashton and Sergeant Percy Bennett of the Torrance Police Department were assigned to the case early Thursday morning when the fire was discovered and subsequently extinguished.

Rat Pack Fails To Halt Couple In Dodging Auto

With his wife unconscious in the seat beside him, Roy Dawson, 1812 Reynosa Drive, artfully maneuvered his auto last weekend to avoid a possible beating or hold-up by a Long Beach rat pack, he told Torrance Police early Sunday morning.

Dawson told local police he and his wife were approaching the intersection of Alameda and Willow street when an auto, later discovered to contain several youths 18-20 years old pulled in front of his car, and then slowed down.

He said he passed the auto which then rammed his own car in the rear. His wife was thrown against the dashboard and knocked unconscious.

At Avalon boulevard and Willow street, he said the would-be assailants again pulled directly in front of his car—this time at a right angle and blocking the road.

Dawson reported two youths

by the Torrance Fire Department.

The fire, which started in a cupboard containing 18 choir robes, was stamped out at 8:30 a.m. Thursday after smoldering for most of the night, the detectives said.

The police found definite evidence of arson in the cabinet of an ante room off the main parish hall.

Other evidence of the crime was discovered among the charred rubble, but proved to be of little help in disclosing the perpetrator of the crime.

Rev. Paul Wenske said that the contractor's estimates to repair the damage were approximately \$4500. A value of several hundred dollars was placed on the choir robes, music and other miscellaneous items destroyed in the fire.

The intense heat in the closed hall made charcoal of huge ceiling beams, blistered paint in adjacent rooms and destroyed huge drapes hanging at the other end of the room from where the fire was believed to have started.

leaped from the car, and started toward his car. He put the car in gear and escaped from the youths by winding and turning several corners, he said.

School Board Explains Stand On Recreation

Dollars set aside for education are shrinking in value and may cause the Torrance Board of Education to reduce the amount of financial help the Board can give to support the jointly sponsored City-School recreation program next year, it was pointed out at a meeting of the board Tuesday night.

In a joint session with the Torrance City Council, the board members alerted the council to the situation facing the school administration.

Dr. J. Henrich Hull pointed out money available for education was steadily declining. He said that in 1947-48 the assessed evaluation per child was \$16,000. This year, he said, the assessed evaluation is but \$10,000 per child. This is in spite of rising costs of education, including teachers' salaries, building materials, and school supplies.

The board left the door

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Torrance's 'Green Years' Ahead Early Morning Bread Lines Dot City As Bakers Argue

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City Has Land For Expansion

Comparing census figures this week, one course that Torrance is certain to follow in the next ten years becomes rather obvious.

Torrance's greenest years definitely lie ahead! Torrance, fifth largest city in area in the county, and now eighteenth largest in population, will pass many sister cities ere the next census rolls around.

Here are some of the salient facts the 1950 census revealed by a Herald survey regarding Torrance and other cities in the county.

This city climbed from position number 21 in the list of Los Angeles County cities in 1940 to eighteenth as revealed by the recent census figures.

Only four other cities (larger than Torrance at the time of the census) showed rates of growth greater than Torrance.

Torrance, now with a population of 22,201, showed a rate of growth during the past decade of 123 per cent—or almost two-and-a-quarter times as large as it was at the last census.

Our city was tenth on the list of cities showing growths which were double that of 10 years ago.

Comparing figures from that list it is indicated that only one other city (West Covina) can stand future growth more easily than Torrance.

This city, with 18.9 square miles, now has only 1175 persons per square mile. Compton has 10,642 inhabitants per square mile.

Following is a list of figures compiled by the Herald showing the square miles in each of the cities which doubled its size since the last federal count:

City	1950	Gain	% Gain
West Covina	4,511	3,429	320
Compton	47,833	31,085	185
Montebello	21,754	13,738	171
Manhattan Beach	17,243	10,846	169
Arcadia	22,228	13,296	144
Gardena	14,336	8,427	142
Monterey Park	25,182	15,151	135
Lyewood	25,564	14,552	123
Burbank	78,224	49,887	128
TORRANCE	22,201	12,501	123

* The following list shows the cities in Los Angeles County showing the greatest growth since 1940:

City	No. of Persons per Miles Square mile
West Covina	244
TORRANCE	1175
Arcadia	2189
Montebello	2609
Monterey Park	4188
Manhattan Beach	4421
Burbank	4799
Gardena	4943
Lyewood	512
Compton	10,642

But even now, as the ink of the 1950 census is still drying, the figures for Torrance are "outdated."

A recent table showing building permits issued during the first five months of this year placed Torrance in fifth place among Los Angeles County cities for the amount of building activity. It was in eighth place among the list of 59 Southland communities.

Since January of this year the local building permit office has issued permits totaling \$5,680,009. This is more than \$3,500,000 more than the same period a year ago.

Torrance Boys Slightly Injured in Auto Crash

Slightly injured in a two-way collision Tuesday night at Western avenue and Pacific Coast highway were two Torrance men. Two Long Beach persons were critically injured.

Treated for lacerations and bruises at the Wilmington Receiving Hospital were David L. Baker, 18, of 1518 Amagola and James Turner, 18, of 1860 Plaza del Amo.



PRODUCTION SPEED-UP . . . Baker Ernie Schultz pulls a tray of bread from the ovens of Alma's Pastry Shop, 1954 West Carson, Torrance's sole bread-producing bakery. The local bakery has stepped-up production five times to help meet the local demand. (Herald photo).

Some Bakeries Still Able To Meet Demand

Bread lines, a symbol of the days of the early thirties, were back in Torrance this week. Though lines of early-morning, bread-hungry persons lined up outside several Torrance bakery shops, few local citizens actually went without bread for very long.

The strike of 21 Los Angeles bakeries did not seem to affect local citizens as strongly as residents of the big city to the north.

Alma's Pastry Shop, 1954 West Carson street, Torrance's sole bread-producing bakery, jumped production from one batch of bread to five per day to meet the demand, according to Mrs. Alma Schultz, owner.

Keith Lyons, 23109 Huber street, who operates a retail Danish Malt bakery truck in Torrance, reported his bakery was not affected by the strike and was able to supply most demands for bread.

Likewise Mrs. Doris Drebs, manager of the local Van De Kamp's Bakery, reported they were able to meet most demands for the staff of life, although most shoppers were doing their bread-buying early in the morning.

Meanwhile grocery stores who depend on wholesale suppliers had to post "No Bread—Strike" signs on their bakery shelves.

The six-day-old strike started last Saturday when 1900 AFL bakers walked out of 21 wholesale bakeries demanding a shorter week and higher wages. The bakers are asking for a 35-hour week on a basis of the present 40-hour pay. Journeymen bakers earn \$1.68 per hour with a top of \$1.90 for special skills.

Although Federal Conciliator John Pfau was to meet with negotiators of the Baking Industry Council yesterday, little hope was held that the meeting would put an end to the strike.



Burrough Talk Planned by Assemblyman

State Assemblyman Vincent Thomas will explain the working of the borough system as it would affect residents of the Shoestring Strip at a meeting of the Shoestring Community Association to be held June 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Nazarene Church, 1501 West Carson street.

Also on the agenda for the evening is the installation of the new officers of the group, according to Mrs. Robert Lenton, publicity chairman.

To be installed are: Henry Wiel, president; Mrs. E. M. Reese, vice president; Mrs. J. W. Sanders, recording secretary; Mrs. E. G. Spratt, corresponding secretary; M. Marittimo, treasurer; and N. B. Henry, auditor.

Neighbors Rally To Aid Couple

Through the kindness of several neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Collins now owe only \$425 on a garage the city of Los Angeles said they had to build—even though they own no car.

Two years ago the Collins' moved from 1737 Martina avenue, where they owned half of a duplex with their son-in-law. The son-in-law got a job in the east and had to move. The Collins' looked about for a place to live—somewhere where it might be possible for them to earn a little income. A place that required little back bending. That ruled out a little chicken ranch or farm since Mr. Collins, now 64 years of age, can't do much stooping since he broke his back in an auto crash 16 years ago.

They found this home in the Shoestring Strip at 1537 West 216th street.

It had three bedrooms and a double garage that had been converted into a rumpus room. Mrs. Collins, 59, planned to rent the rumpus room and offer kitchen privileges.

One of the bedrooms she rented to a Harbor General Hospital nurse. The nurse introduced the Collins' to a patient at the hospital.

"I am nearly blind and can't be of much help around a house, but if you will only take me out of this hospital and let me

stay in your home—a place without any fences—I'll pay you what I can from my pension," the elderly man proposed.

With these borders the Collins' were able to make the house payment and eek out an existence, until . . .

Last year a Los Angeles building official handed the Collins' an ultimatum.

"Build a garage or else . . . a garage for a car they didn't own.

Last Thursday morning at 7 a.m. a man, reading the story in the Torrance Herald, called and offered to rent the garage.

Last Saturday morning three ladies walked into the Herald office.

"We read about the Collins' and wondered if they would be offended if we offered to help. Oh, it isn't much, but we would like to give a dollar apiece."

Upon overhearing the three ladies, Mrs. W. F. Miller, 1640 West 203rd street, Mrs. Kathryn Haas, 1567 West 203rd street, and Mrs. J. M. Walston, 1642 West 203rd street, offer their dollars, another lady, Mrs. Nadine Bay, 2558 Torrance boulevard, made it four dollars. This reporter made it an even five.

Mrs. Collins, appreciative of the help the story had given her in renting the garage, called the Herald.

"Perhaps it isn't much, but I would like to repay you for the help you gave us in renting the garage by putting an ad in your paper. Could you write something for a want ad that will help my husband get a job as a watchman or doing something that he won't have to do any stooping," she asked.

"I'll be glad to pay you what ever the want ad comes to."

The couple, paying for the house and living on what Mrs. Collins could earn as a baby sitter and from rent of the extra rooms, borrowed \$440 from the bank and had the garage built. Mr. Collins, unable to do any manual labor, stood by and watched the carpenters, plasterers, and painters build a garage

for a car they didn't own.

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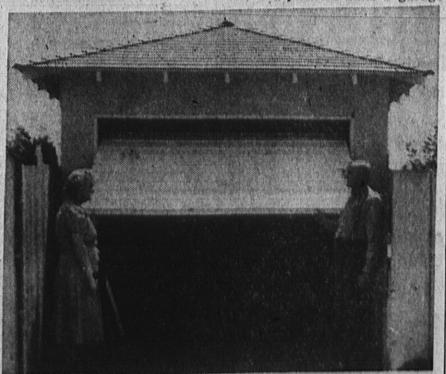
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MR. AND MRS. HARRY COLLINS
Neighbors Offer To Help With The Load